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P/688 of 23rd September 1953.

WEST GERMANY

Dr. Bornemann on the Activities of Dr. Neumann's  
Circle of Friends

The attached report is from a source in touch  
with right-wing personalities.

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GERMANY (Federal Republic)

Political

Dr. BORNEMANN on the activities of Dr. NAUMANN's  
circle of friends

1. On 20 Aug. 53 Dr. Friedrich Karl BORNEMANN of Duesseldorf, visited an acquaintance in BONN for the first time since his disappearance in Jan. 53 and his subsequent imprisonment. In the course of lengthy discussion, BORNEMANN stated that NAUMANN's friends had not agreed with the latter joining the DRP and trying to obtain a mandate in the next Federal Diet. They believed that from a foreign political point of view, it was most inopportune for NAUMANN, as a former Secretary of State, to become a Diet member. Since his release from KARLSRUHE, BORNEMANN had met NAUMANN once, when the latter had visited him at his house. In the course of that meeting BORNEMANN had told NAUMANN that his present activities were completely opposed to his previous convictions. He had reminded NAUMANN of his previous opinions about the DRP and had tried to make him change his attitude. NAUMANN had agreed with BORNEMANN but had stated that his decision had been made entirely instinctively and that once the decision had been made he was unable to go back on it.

LUCHT? 2. BORNEMANN stated that he had no intention of renewing the very good comradeship he had previously had with NAUMANN, especially as NAUMANN's present confidants (Frau LECHT, Karl-Heinz PETER and Adolf von THADDEN appeared to dislike BORNEMANN and were trying to remove him as an influence on NAUMANN. The other people who had been arrested at the time, felt similarly and had nearly decided to issue a statement to the Press explaining that they no longer agreed with NAUMANN. Since his imprisonment NAUMANN's character had changed and he had now become morose, embittered and full of resentments. By his recent action NAUMANN had contradicted the statements of all his friends, who had, during their interrogations, always denied any intentions of NAUMANN joining a political party. NAUMANN should have considered the statements of his friends before committing himself.

3. BORNEMANN stated that some of the paragraphs of NAUMANN's speeches, which had been read to him by his interrogators, had never been uttered by NAUMANN. These sentences had either been added to the manuscript later on or had been in it but not read out by NAUMANN.

4. During his flight from the British, BORNEMANN had been in touch with the U.S. authorities, who had kept him informed of the proceedings against NAUMANN and had advised him against giving himself up to the British.

5. BORNEMANN stated that he would now discontinue the periodical "KBI", but carry on with the publication of the "DUZ" and also re-establish the "FKB" sheets. He mentioned that he would try and make money out of the notoriety given to him by his arrest but that he intended to do this in the journalistic field and not in the political field. His wife had influenced him in considering the necessity of keeping his family and building up a well-founded existence.

Maybe PRIESTER?

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